

APR 25073 2/10 Grete Rotkschild Finkelstein Collection - Postwar correspondence
from Grünfeld, 1946, 1950, 1954

Archives

Grünsfeld, den 15. VII. 1906.

Liebe Rita!

Du wirst nicht wenig
entsetzt sein aus Deiner einstigen
Heimat Nürnberg zu kommen.
Wie geht es Dir in Deinen Angehörigen?
Hoffentlich seid Ihr alle noch
gesund. Grünsfeld hat auch den
Krieg gut überstanden. Nur viel
Gefallene u. Vermisste sind zu beklä-
gen. Darunter auch Josef Börsch,
der bei Deinen Vater tätig war.

Meine M. Rita, möchte
ich Dir im Auftrag Deiner Schwester
Juna folgendes mitteilen:

Wie Du erfahren hast, ist Deine M.
eine Mutter in Südpfalz ge-
storben. Deine Schwester Juna lebt
liden Gottes auch nicht mehr.

Ich stand mit ihr laufend im
Briefwechsel, in dem ich habe ich auch
Ihre Adresse. Auf einmal lute alles
auf, und dann ging das Gerücht
Irma sei tot.

Sobald meine Mutter hier bei Rosen-
bäumen wohnt, ging es ihr gut. Die
Grünfelder hatten den Frauen alles
Vollst. ins Haus. Sie kam öfters zu
uns, in. ich hat ich alles, was ich konnte.
Damit Sie nicht zu frieren trauerten,
versorge ich Sie heimlich mit Kohlen.

Es war hier eine große Aufregung
als es hieß, die Juden würden fortgeschickt.
Aber das kam zu einer Zeit als alles
in der Kartoffelernte war, und ging
es fort, alles mit fremden Autos usw.
Nur Fr. Rosenbaum in. Fr. Schwab blieben
hier, da sie an diesem Tag in Kitz
waren. Frau Schwab kam das Jahr
darauf weg in. Frau Rosenbaum
hier sehr nicht aufhalten in. ging
in ein Altersheim.

Was haben wir sie erwartet, aber sie
folgte nicht. Einige Monate später
führte sie mit einem Transport durch
nach Theresienstadt. Da rief sie
Grünwald zu an der Bahn: "Wäre ich
nicht fort von hier." -

Und nun kommt der eigent-
liche Grund, warum ich Sie schreibe.
Meine Mutter hat 1939 2 Nachtschne-
len, 2 Heppdecken bei uns unter-
gestellt. Heute Irma zwei Wäsche-
packete, mit der Angabe es zu re-
alisieren in. Für mitteilen. Sie sollte
dort dann mit meinen Geschwister
darüber beraten, es sei unser gemein-
sames Eigentum.

Nun hat Rösle (Käthe Holke's Frau)
sofort nach Freigabe der aus. Post
an Sie geschrieben, ohne jedoch
Antwort zu bekommen.

Nimm wolke ich es auch ausstehen.

Liebe Rita! Euer Haus steht unter
Kontrolle des Finanzamtes. Im I. Stock
wohnt der Förster Zankiger (ehem. Adrian) &
in die Tochter von Jakob Zankiger.
Das Möbel in die Hände bei Rosenbaum
münden versteigert. Was aus dem Kasten
geworden ist kann ich für leider nicht
sagen. So viel ich weiß hat keine Mitten
noch etwas Möbel hier untergestellt.
Da müßte man mal fragen ob es noch
dort ist oder mit versteigert würde.

Schicke mir bitte mal
bald Bescheid.

Es grüßt dich in. Deine Schwester

6.30.00
24.8

Theresia Kander

Wagmanns Feld: Baden
am. Lüne.

Hauptstr. 198.

Meile Gräfe von Rörle an die

in
Klein.

Grete Rothschild Finkelstein Collection (unprocessed)

Stuttgart, 7.15.1950.

My dear friend Lina!

I received your dear letter, for which very many thanks. I was just as pleased to get your letter as you were to get a sign of life from me. Regrettably I only now get a chance to reply. My work is very demanding and until now I only had a chance to read your letter. But because of a foot injury I have to stay at home for a few days, and so my thoughts are with you and I want to talk to you as if you were sitting next to me, even though we are separated by thousands of kilometers.

I gather from your lines that you are doing well and that you are satisfied with your lot, that the same is true of your brothers and sisters, with the exception of David. These criminals could never have exonerated themselves from this injustice, even if they lived 1000 years, but this is how people are, especially in Germany. It is all forgotten too quickly. One feels sorry for the criminals but not for the victims, for in most cases they are no longer alive. From this point of view the abolition of the death sentence in Germany is understandable, which I regret very much. For each person values his own life at least as much as the criminals do.

As you can see, dear Lina, my family and I have had to undergo much unpleasantness during this time of madness. This is easily understood if one considers that I looked upon the matter in a disapproving way, particularly since I was a police officer, many of whom acted as torturers. And if the Nazis had won the war it is unlikely that I would be writing to you today. My determined "no" remained steadfast in the face of any danger. In my job I helped quite a few who were persecuted, also some of

Greta Rottschil'd Finkelstein (improvised)

your persuasion, which put me in great danger. My family was kept under surveillance and spied on. My wife had to do air-raid protection duty in her spare time, while the men were watching, cowardly bastards, who were quite capable of doing battle against those who were defenceless. On top of that she was forced to work in a factory until she collapsed. My boy, too, was forcefully evacuated and so poorly billeted that he became ill. When we brought him home he was not permitted to attend any neighborhood school. I had to dispose of unexploded bombs in my ~~district~~ precinct, which the Nazis all refused to do. Well, at least I was able to stay at home that way, because they needed me. Otherwise they would have thrown me out to the front. In the end our home was ransacked and I barely got away with my life. This, too, had been arranged by the Nazis who lived nearby, who told the robbers that we were Nazis, which in fact they were. This happened at the start of the occupation, when everything was topsy-turvy. But we survived it all and thus won the war. And we are doing pretty well, we are healthy and content. As the entire population in the West zone ought to be content. People do in fact live better than in the years just before the war. Even the formerly official and now clandestine Nazis are doing well, much too well. Quite unjustly, they are also no longer required to do general duties, like those who were not active supporters of this company of gangsters. As I said before, it is all too quickly forgotten. Only few are giving thought as to why we must rebuild ruins today, why one now supports the release of German prisoners of war in Russia (even the Americans ^{do}), why Germany is divided today, and a lot more.

Greta Rothschild Finkelstein Collection (unprocessed)

Now I want to evaluate my relationship to our native country and to my relatives there. You assume, dear Hina, that I got your address from my sister. Not so. I asked my neighbor Walter Ulschöfer to get it for me. He is the only one in Edelfingen with whom I am still in touch. I already wrote to you how long I have not been there, therefore I am no longer in touch with my sisters. Stuttgart has become my new home. My sisters did not treat me well, Marie less so. Here I had my brother, whom you will still remember. He died shortly before the war. His wife put him into an institution, since he had arteriosclerosis and his mind no longer functioned, where he was disposed of in the then usual manner, which my sisters were just as aware of as I was. According to a will he left behind he appointed his wife to be his sole heir, which I took for granted. In a further paragraph it was stipulated that if he dies after his wife, her brothers and sisters are to be his sole heirs. My sisters contested the will, even though they knew that at the time my brother was no longer legally capable of setting up a will. I fought this only because of the last paragraph, because it damaged my and my sisters' reputation to such a degree that one was ashamed to appear before a notary and my brother, to whom this was presented for his signature, was incapable of understanding its content. But then the widow and her shabby cohorts forced me to abandon the matter, warning that otherwise they would destroy me because I grumbled about Hitler. This happened in Edelfingen in my sister's apartment, in the presence of both - and the rest would have taken place in a concentration camp. - And since my sisters to this day maintain a very friendly

Grete Rothschild Finkelstein Collection. (unprocessed)

relationship with these gangsters (in spite of everything) I said good bye to them for good (wishing them well). This is why nothing pulls me to Edelfingen anymore. Despite the pleasant memories of my childhood and youth I must and I shall try to stay away from there, just as has been your lot, dear Lina. But, as you also write, there are good people all over the world, better ones, perhaps, than in Edelfingen. You think, dear Lina, that I should come over there for a visit. That will not be possible and in the long run would be a burden to you. But I would put nothing in my boy's way if he wants to emigrate. He is 17 years old, is still in school and knows some English. If you had your own business and could use him there I would entrust him to you. His disposition is very similar to mine. How his future will look is in my opinion a question of how the future of the world's peace-loving people will be shaped. By this I imply the serious concern for the future of the non-communist world. Why are there people who always force their will on others, who want to tyrannize others? Thus I see another big (third) world war in the making sooner or later, if all free nations do not recognize this danger and stand together. What is now happening in Rumania we may soon see in other parts of the world. One could do much more against these aggressors without waging war. All connections with such states should be severed until they respect the human dignity of all the others. It has been proven often enough that with persuasion and the best proposals nothing can be achieved with such brutes. This was the case with our fools as well. Then as now it was interpreted as weakness and fear. One must not break bread with such

Grete Rothschild Finkelstein Collection. (unprocessed).

monsters, else they will really believe that they are of equal rank. He who does not acknowledge the freedom of others must first of all be punished by contempt. Thus, at the moment, young innocent people must sacrifice their lives in Kowen because world communism wants it so. Be glad, dear king, that you never married. I am sure that you have worries, not as many as if you had children whom you would have to leave to such a sad future. If it were not for my boy I would have no concerns. We own a nice home and garden, mortgage-free, located outside the city in God's open country and I can say that I had much luck in my life and know that if just one person is happy about this, it is you.

And now I shall close for today. My best regards to all your family, wishing a speedy recovery to your brother David. What do you know of the other Edelingen people of your persuasion?

I wrote a lot, didn't I? But it was not easy, I have to lie down on account of my foot injury. But it is improving rapidly. Hoping my letter finds you well and that you can and will soon give me the pleasure of further good news, with my best regards,

Sincerely,

"your friend" Fritz.

Address: Friedrich Bach, Stuttgart-Zuffenhansen, Im Wiesort 2.

u. dem nicht was man gut hören. Zum Schluss
 ihm hat nochmal vielen Dank für das 16. Paket
 vom 4. 5. 97 gesendet und ihm sehr dankbar
 zu sein. Auch noch, noch sehr dankbar, noch sehr
 so viel steht dem man sehr dankbar ist.
 Und noch vielen Dank für das 16. Paket.
 Ich. Rita. Verzeihen mir, wenn ich nicht mehr
 was ganz überrascht, als ich am
 6. 6. deinen 16. Brief, so auch dein Paket
 erhalten habe. Habe recht vielen Dank
 dafür, denn es waren doch schöne Sachen
 dabei, worüber wir uns sehr gefreut
 haben. Denn doch manches damit
 anfangen. Was ich nicht so ganz kann
 nicht für unsere kleine. Das Blaue und
 Schwarze Kleid kann ich tragen, wie es ist.
 Auch, an Pfingsten, ist es auch nicht
 einmal da, Sie sind mit ein paar
 Bilder beilegen. Auch vielen Dank für den
 Brief, u. die Strümpfe. Es war mir nicht
 recht, dass ich mich so arm anstellte, nur so
 doch es ist schon so. Wäre ich noch jung,
 so würde auch ich noch etw. mehr sein.

noch mehr man schon sehr oft kann man das nicht mehr. Wäre schon
 jemand finden, das wir helfen würde. Im 16. Brief, habe ich auch
 viel mehr, dass es mir viel zu viel ist. Ich bin sehr dankbar, man

